a detailed time bound step-by-step programme and monitor its implementation. The mandate of the Group would have to include identification of alternative band, assessing and making available requisite funds and assisting users on procedural aspects of quick procurement and installation of new equipment. This activity has to be taken up on war footing to be able to meet the Government objectives of growth in telecom services."

(d) Adequate spectrum to achieve the target of 200 million mobile subscribers by 2007 is sought to be made available including by release of necessary spectrum from existing users through coordination/relocation.

Reduction of pulse rate

2544. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL, Delhi has since reduced telephone pulse rate between Delhi and towns of NCR namely Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon from 3 minutes to 2 minutes, which is against the concept of National Capital Region, which stipulates that the whole region be treated as one city;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct MTNL, Delhi to revert to the earlier arrangement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reduction in pulse rate for calls to these cities from Delhi was necessitated to offset the loss being caused to MTNL in complying with Interconnection Usage Charges regime.

Criteria for nomination of member of TAC

2545. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for nomination of members for TACs of Telecom district;

(b) whether the persons recommended by the Members of Parliament are considered for nomination, if so, how many members, each MP can recommend in his home district;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many TACs the names of capable and competent persons recommended by the MPs have been ignored and in their places persons recommended by the highly placed political functionaries have been included; and

(d) if so, how many such persons recommended by the political functionaries have been accommodated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) are constituted Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise and the criteria followed for appointment of members in the Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) are as given below:—

* The members of TAC are taken from all segments of society such as Social Workers, Press, Trade, Commerce, Industry, Medical and other professionals. etc.

* Each Member of Parliament may recommend five names of eminent persons from his/her constituency to be considered for nomination in the TAC.

* The Hon'ble Members of Parliament shall be members of only one TAC falling within their constituency by virtue of their office. In case of nominated Rajya Sabha MPs, they may be nominated in the TAC falling within their adopted constituency [with regard to the constituency adopted for Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) programme].

* However, Hon'ble MPs who become ministers shall not be nominated/ cease to continue in the TAC.

* when appointments are made, all efforts are made to ensure that all segments of society are appropriately represented.

(c) and (d) Efforts are made to ensure that the capable and competent persons recommended by the MPs are not ignored.